

ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of an identification and evaluation-level architectural resource survey and determination of National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility conducted for the Route 40 Improvements project in New Castle County, Delaware for the State of Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT). The goal of the survey was to identify each resource within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) built prior to 1960 and assess its eligibility for listing using the NRHP Criteria for Evaluation. The APE runs from State Route (S.R.) 896 on the west to the intersection of S.R. 40 and S.R. 7 on the east. It also includes portions of S.R. 72 (Wrangle Hill Road) and Walther Road.

The initial survey and determination of eligibility report for the Route 40 Improvements project identified 43 historic resources within the project APE. Since the completion of the draft version of this report in February 2003, five resources have been razed. Of the 38 remaining resources, one resource, N-5011 - the Frech/Sclavos Farmstead, is recommended as eligible for listing in the NRHP. The farmstead, which consists of a farmhouse, stable, tenant house, and 1.8 ha (4.4 ac) of land, is significant under NRHP Criterion C as an example of a Craftsman style farmstead complex. The buildings have been altered, but they retain much of their exterior integrity and character-defining elements. Feeling and association are enhanced by the associated pastureland, existing fencing, and canopied entrance. It is further recommended that a second, N-3978 - the McKenna House, be added to the boundary of the NRHP-eligible James Stewart House (N-1089). Five other resources within the APE were previously recommended as eligible for listing or listed in the NRHP: Aiken's Tavern Historic District, the Hermitage, the Bear Historic District, the James Stewart House, and Schoolhouse No. 56. Two resources had previously been determined to be not eligible for listing, State Bridge Number 363 and the Cumberland Farms. At this time, it is not possible to evaluate the potential effects that the project may have on NRHP-eligible and NRHP-listed resources. Currently, DelDOT is in the process of narrowing alternatives. When the process is completed, it will be possible to assess impacts.

A summary of each resource and an evaluation of its eligibility is included in Section 5.1 of this report. A Determination of Eligibility (DOE) form for the Frech/Sclavos Farmstead is included as an appendix, and resumes of the Principal Investigator and report authors are also included.